

# A REPORT ON CHILD MALTREATMENT

The State of Minnesota

1991–1994

by Esther Wattenberg  
and Hyungmo Kim

February, 1997

# A REPORT ON CHILD MALTREATMENT

The State of Minnesota

1991–1994

by Esther Wattenberg,

Director, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare

Professor, School of Social Work,

and Associate, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs

University of Minnesota

and Hyungmo Kim, doctoral student, School of Social Work,

University of Minnesota

Funded in part by:

Bush/IV-E funds through the Minnesota Department of Human Services,  
Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, and the School of Social Work, University of Minnesota



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	v
Executive Summary	1
I. Introduction	7
II. Type of Maltreatment	9
III. Age and Race/Ethnicity	15
IV. The Seven Metropolitan Counties	23
V. A Comparison of Minnesota Data and U.S. Data	31
VI. Conclusion	35
Selected National References	37





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report could not have been completed without the interest and cooperation of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. We acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the continuous support of Judy Kuck, Community Services Division, who provided the administrative data that was the basis of this report and responded to our questions cheerfully and in a timely fashion. We appreciate the comments of Jean Swanson Broberg, Social Services Information Systems Project, in clarifying details in the reporting statutes.

Jennifer Wissink contributed a substantial portion of work in the initial phase of the report, 1991-1993. Her work as a graduate research assistant while a master's student in the School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, is very much appreciated.

We also acknowledge the excellent support of Mary Kaye LaPointe, Louise Duncan, and Chris McKee from CURA in the final preparation of this report.

This report has been jointly funded by CURA (Center for Urban and Regional Affairs) and the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report of child maltreatment in Minnesota from 1991 through 1994 is based on administrative data provided by 87 counties to the Minnesota Department of Human Services. To learn more about child abuse and neglect in Minnesota over the four years 1991-94, the data were organized to reveal trends in type of maltreatment, percentage of cases determined\*, and factors of race and age. A special study of the seven metropolitan counties and of Minnesota and the United States is also included.

### Type of Maltreatment: Minnesota, 1991-1994

In Minnesota, more than 110,000 children (this may include a duplicated count\*\*) had been reported as abused and neglected from 1991 through 1994, the last year for which data were available. The percentage of determinations held steady at an average of 38 percent over the four years, with wide variations among the counties. While physical and sexual abuse percentages had a modest decline, the steady rise of children in neglect situations should be a focus of attention.

- From 1991 through 1994, out of 112,113 allegations of maltreatment, 42,420 were determined (38 percent). The percentage of determinations for Minnesota held steady (37-39 percent) over the four years. More than 60 percent of allegations of maltreatment were not determined.
- In 1994, of those cases that were determined:
  - 62 percent were children in neglecting families—a continuous rise from 55 percent in 1991, to 58 percent in 1992, to 60 percent in 1993;
  - 34 percent were physically abused children—a steady decline from 44 percent in 1991, to 39 percent in 1992, to 36 percent in 1993;
  - 10 percent were sexual abuse victims, holding somewhat steady over four years;
  - 2 percent were victims of emotional maltreatment, declining slightly.

---

\* Since 1988, "determined" replaced the term "substantiated" to indicate that in the assessment or investigation of a maltreatment report, evidence was uncovered to confirm maltreatment. Once a report is investigated, three options guide the documentation for recordkeeping: "undetermined;" "determined, but no case opened," implying a level of low or moderate risk; and "determined and case opened," implying a high level of risk.

\*\* The same child might be reported more than once.

### Age and Race/Ethnicity: Minnesota, 1991-94

- Almost half (47 percent) of determined maltreatment victims in Minnesota were very young (six years of age and under). In addition, even more remarkable is the fact that infants and toddlers (three years of age and under) represented the majority of this percentage (26-28 percent).
- Percentage of determined Caucasian victims decreased from 67 percent in 1991 to 61 percent in 1994.
- Percentage of determined African American victims increased from 17 percent in 1991 to 23 percent in 1994.
- Percentage of determined Native American, Asian, and Hispanic heritage victims held somewhat steady over four years.
- Out of 79,216 alleged Caucasian victims, 27,720 were determined (35 percent). Caucasian victims had the lowest determination rate (33-37 percent), and represented the largest percentage of determined victims (approximately 65 percent) in Minnesota.
- Out of 20,198 alleged African American victims, 8,438 were determined (42 percent). African American victims had the second highest determination rate (40-46 percent), and represented less than 20 percent of the determined victims in Minnesota.
- Out of 7,907 alleged Native American victims, 3,599 were determined (46 percent). While Native American victims represented only less than 9 percent of determined victims in Minnesota, they had the highest determination rate (41-48 percent). However, their percentage of determinations decreased from 48 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 1994.
- Out of 2,047 alleged Asian victims, 828 were determined (40 percent). Percentage of determinations for Asian victims decreased from 43 percent in 1991 to 38 percent in 1994.
- Out of 4,642 alleged victims of Hispanic heritage, 1,906 were determined (41 percent). Between 1991 and 1994, percentage of determinations for victims of Hispanic heritage (39-44 percent) were slightly higher than the average percentage of determinations in Minnesota (37-39 percent). However, their percentage of determinations decreased from 44 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 1994.

### The Seven Metropolitan Counties: 1991-1993

The seven metropolitan counties (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington) represented 55 percent of the State's total maltreatment allegations and 58 percent of the State's total maltreatment determinations, over three years, 1991-93. From 1991 through 1993, the last years for which county data were available, percentage of determinations varied among the seven metropolitan counties.

Several factors might account for the variations in determining the reports of maltreatment: each county may weigh the information gathered during the assessment phase against differing thresholds of severity of abuse and neglect. Screeners reflect both administrative and community standards for judging the "severity" factor in neglect. These standards are generally understood to be in flux in the case of neglect: there is little consensus on acceptable conditions of home environments for children.

Criteria for "screening out" cases may also reflect staffing availability; and resource decline. The number of reports accepted for investigation may reflect the resources available in a child protection system at any one time, with wide variations among the 87 counties. Each county has arrived at an understanding of whether the level of maltreatment measured by severity, pattern and likelihood of "imminent harm" is sufficient to open a case for investigation. These appear to be factors that account for differences in percentage of determinations.

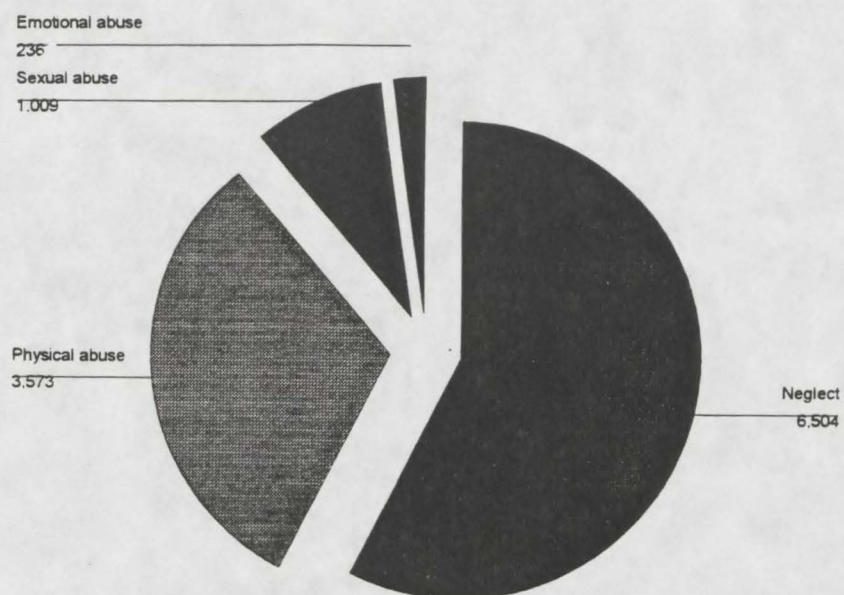
- Percentage of determinations of the seven metropolitan counties (40 percent in 1991, 44 percent in 1992, and 38 percent in 1993) were higher than percentage of determinations for the state as a whole (38 percent in 1991, 39 percent in 1992, and 37 percent in 1993).
- Percentage of determinations among the seven metropolitan counties ranged from a low of 33 percent (Hennepin County, 1993) to a high of 56 percent (Ramsey County, 1993).
- In Anoka County, out of 3,510 allegations of maltreatment, 1,394 were determined (40 percent). Percentage of determinations increased from 35 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 1993.
- In Carver County, out of 440 allegations of maltreatment, 198 were determined (45 percent). Percentage of determinations in Carver County continuously increased from 36 percent in 1991 to 48 percent in 1993.
- In Dakota County, out of 4,291 allegations of maltreatment, 1,742 were determined (41 percent). Percentage of determinations held somewhat steady (40-42 percent) over the three years.
- In Hennepin County, out of 27,932 allegations of maltreatment, 10,282 were determined (37 percent). Percentage of determinations fluctuated in uneven ways: 37 percent in 1991, 41 percent in 1992, 33 percent in 1993.

- In Ramsey County, out of 7,309 allegations of maltreatment, 3,940 were determined (54 percent). Percentage of determinations increased from 51 percent in 1991, to 55 percent in 1992, and to 56 percent in 1993.
- In Scott County, out of 961 allegations of maltreatment, 428 were determined (45 percent). Percentage of determinations increased from 37 percent in 1991 to 49 percent in 1992 and 1993.
- In Washington County, out of 1,742 allegations of maltreatment, 642 were determined (37 percent). Percentage of determinations held somewhat steady (34-39 percent) over three years.

#### **A Comparison of Minnesota Data and U.S. Data**

- From 1991 through 1994, the percentage of determinations in Minnesota (36-39 percent) was higher than the percentage of determinations in the U.S. (31-34 percent). However, the differences in percentage of determinations between Minnesota and the U.S. decreased over four years from 6.6 percent in 1991 to 2.4 percent in 1994.
- In 1994, the percentage of determined neglect victims in Minnesota (62.3 percent) was higher than percentage of determined neglect victims in the U.S. (55.4 percent). In addition, the percentage of determined physical abuse victims in Minnesota (34.2 percent) was also higher than percentage of determined physical abuse victims in the U.S. (25.5 percent). However, the percentages of determined sexual abuse and emotional maltreatment victims in Minnesota were a little lower than percentages of those in the U.S.
- In 1994, the percentage of determined victims by age in Minnesota was somewhat similar to the percentage of those in the U.S. Both in Minnesota and the U.S., almost half of determined victims were very young (six years of age and under), and infants and toddlers (three years of age and under) represented the majority of this percentage.
- In 1994, there were differing patterns of determination of maltreatment reports by race and ethnicity emerging in a comparison of Minnesota and U.S. data. Minnesota had higher percentages for Caucasian, Native American, and Asian victims of determined maltreatment. For African American victims, Minnesota's percentage was slightly lower (Minnesota 22.8 percent; U.S. 26.4 percent), and victims of Hispanic heritage also had a lower percentage of determinations (Minnesota 5.7 percent, U.S. 9.4 percent).

# Determined Victims by Type of Maltreatment in Minnesota, 1994

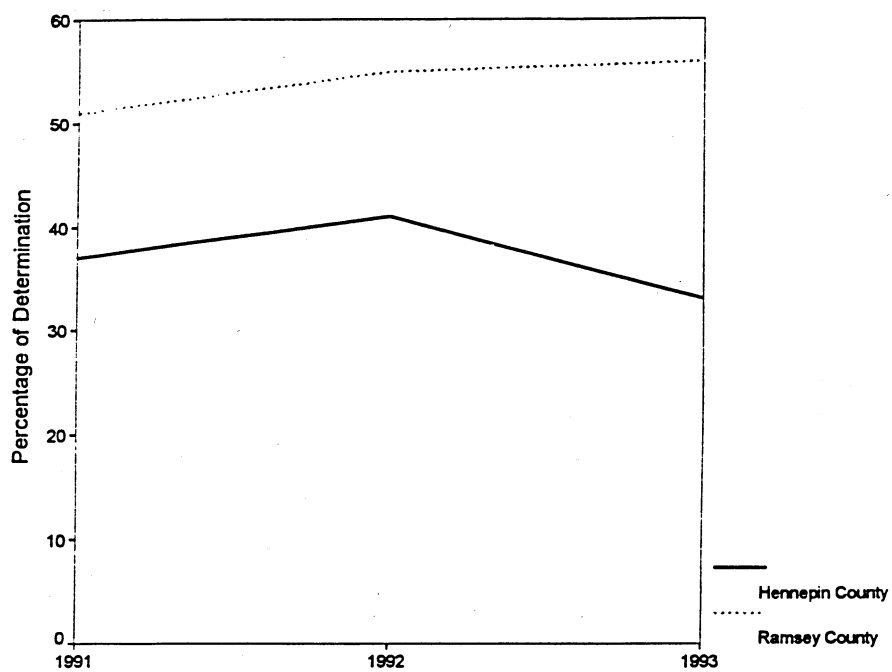


## Determined Victims by Age in Minnesota, 1994





Percentage of Determinations, 1991-1993



## I. INTRODUCTION

The data used in this study were derived from reports forwarded from 87 counties to the Minnesota Department of Human Services from the period 1991-1994, the last year for which the data were available. The statistics generated depend on the accuracy and dependability of county reporters. While there may be some inconsistencies across counties in definitions and interpretations of categories, the data provides broad trend information on the scope, type of maltreatment, percentage of determinations, and factors of age and race. Section IV reports on abused and neglected children in the seven metropolitan counties and provides a comparison of Minnesota and U.S. data.

### Scope

The importance of grasping the scope, characteristics, and trends in child maltreatment has been underlined by the persistent public policy question: has the child protection system been overwhelmed by reports of maltreatment?

It should be noted that there are no reliable data on the number of maltreatment reports received by counties before the screening process is initiated. Counties vary in their recordkeeping on the number of reports received. Minnesota statutes designate "mandated reporters," chiefly professional persons and those who closely observe children in situations such as child care, school, and health facilities. Anonymous reports from friends, kin, and neighbors add to the stream of reported incidents. From the reported data, more than 110,000 children had been reported as abused and neglected in the State of Minnesota from 1991 through 1994. The screening of these reports varies across counties. The number of reports selected for investigation reflect various assessments of risk procedures. Upon the conclusion of every assessment or investigation, two determinations are made: first, whether maltreatment has occurred; and second, whether child protection services are needed. Three options typically guide the documentation for record keeping: "undetermined"; "determined but no case opened," implying a level of low or moderate risk; "determined and case opened," implying a level of high risk.

According to Minnesota Statutes 1996 (626.556) a determination that child protection services are needed means that a child is at significant risk of maltreatment if protective intervention is not provided, and that the individuals responsible for the child's care have not taken or are not likely to take actions to protect the child from maltreatment or risk of maltreatment. The reports of "determination" in this report are of reported incidents in which there is some level of risk to a child's safety. Percentage of determinations varied for the type of maltreatment (57 percent for emotional maltreatment; 39 percent for neglect and sexual abuse; 35 percent for physical abuse). The meaning of fluctuations in determination rates provokes considerable debate. There is no standardized method for this decision-making process.

It is interesting to note that the percentage of determinations held steady at 38 percent over the four years 1991-94. Why almost 60 percent of allegations had been unfounded is not well understood. However, the following interpretations are frequently offered:

the community standard of reporting reflects a broader definition of abuse and neglect than the stringent standards of risk established by child protection services; child protection services have raised the determination threshold to an "imminent harm" criterion in order to contain the number of incidents to be investigated, i.e., the number of reports accepted for investigation reflects the resources available in a child protection system.

Age and race of children as factors in child maltreatment require attention. Our attention should be directed to the growing number of very young children in reported incidents of maltreatment. The extent to which the increasing number of children reported in child maltreatment incidents is linked to the rise in substance abuse, poverty, homelessness, or changes in demography among distinct populations is not known. The relationship of race and ethnicity to types of maltreatment cannot be separated from the disproportionate effect of poverty, single parenthood, and dysfunctional and dangerous neighborhoods which impact the life circumstances of families of color. However, little empirical work has been done to account for the effects of the different experiences of multi-racial families and the relationship of culture, resources, community characteristics, and the availability and appropriateness of services offered.

Finally, while the average percentage of determinations in Minnesota held steady over the four years 1991-94, the percentage of determinations among the seven metropolitan counties varied widely, from a low of 33 percent in Hennepin County in 1993 to a high of 56 percent in Ramsey County in 1993. The percentage of determinations is an important finding for reports of maltreatment. Is the dwindling percentage investigations of reported maltreatment, especially among reports of neglect, a sign that the child protection system has surged beyond its capacity to respond?

## II. TYPE OF MALTREATMENT

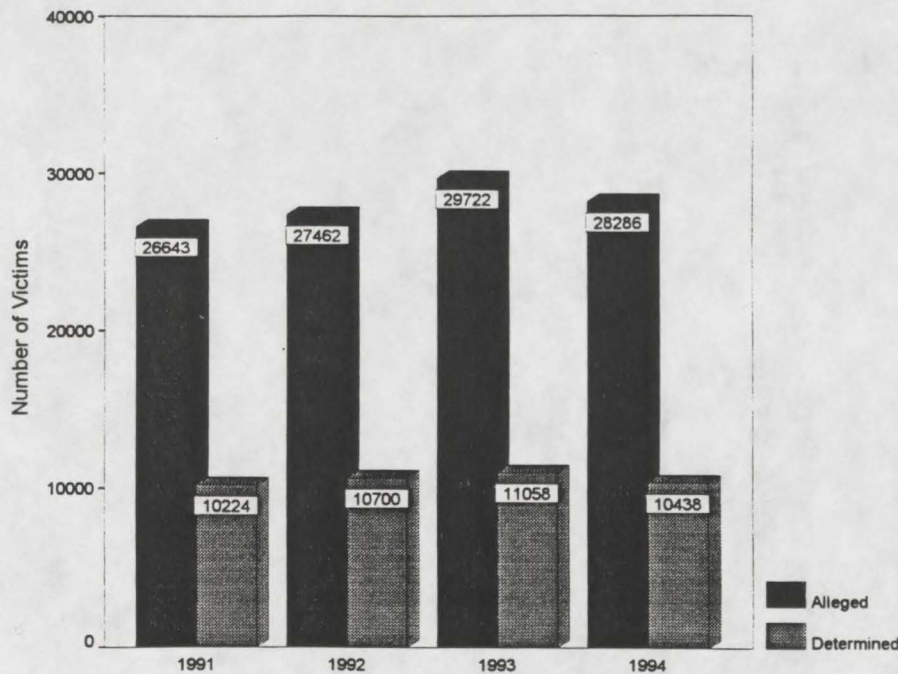
### 1. State of Minnesota, 1991-94

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	26,643	27,462	29,722	28,286	112,113
Determined Victims	10,224	10,700	11,058	10,438	42,420
Percentage of Determination	38	39	37	37	38

- Out of 112,113 allegations of maltreatment, 42,420 were determined (38 percent). The percentage of determinations in Minnesota held steady (37-39 percent) over four years.
- More than 60 percent of allegations of maltreatment were not determined.

State of Minnesota Victims, 1991-1994





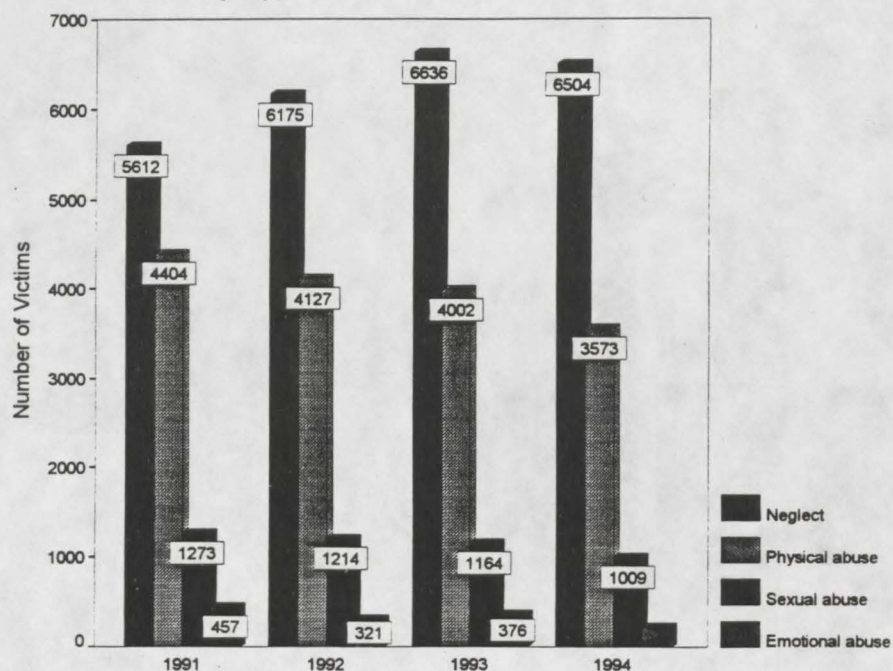
## 2. Type of Maltreatment, 1991-94

Number and Percentage of Determined Victims

	<u>1991</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Neglect	5,612	55	6,175	58	6,636	60	6,504	62
Physical Abuse	4,404	44	4,127	39	4,002	36	3,573	34
Sexual Abuse	1,273	12	1,214	11	1,164	11	1,009	10
Emotional Maltreatment	457	4	321	3	376	3	236	2
Total	10,224		10,700		11,058		10,438	

- Each year, more than 10,000 children suffered from determined maltreatment.
- In 1994, of determined maltreatment victims, 62 percent were children in neglecting families—a continuous rise from 55 percent in 1991, to 58 percent in 1992, to 60 percent in 1993.
- Percentage of physical abuse victims showed a steady decline, from 44 percent in 1991, to 39 percent in 1992, to 36 percent in 1993, and to 34 percent in 1994.
- Percentage of sexual abuse and emotional maltreatment victims held somewhat steady over four years.

Victims by Type of Maltreatment, 1991-1994

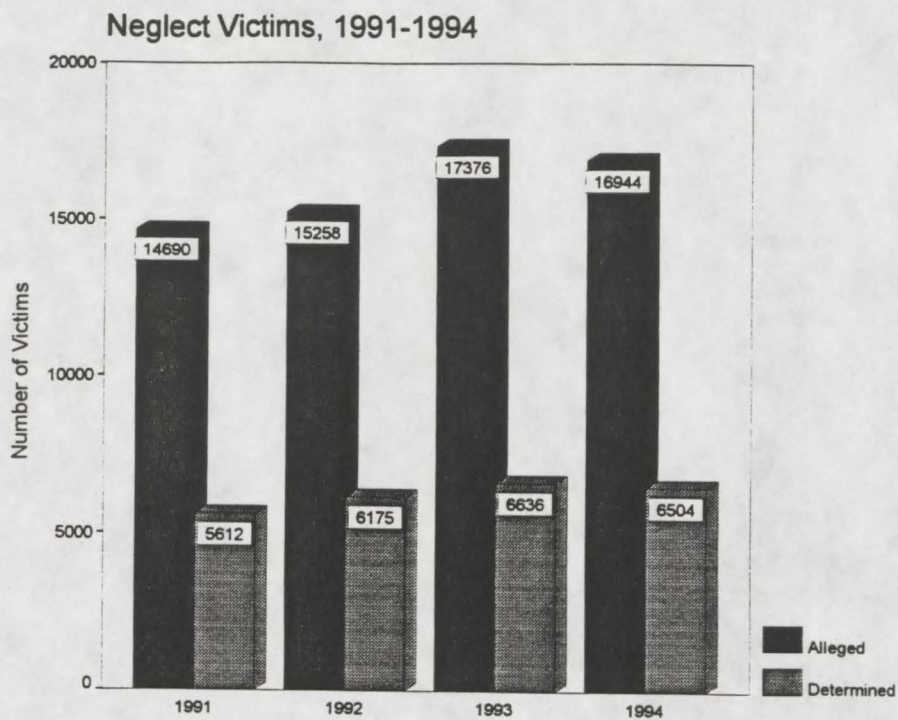


### 3. Neglect, 1991-94

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	14,690	15,258	17,376	16,944	64,268
Determined Victims	5,612	6,175	6,636	6,504	24,927
Percentage of Determinations	38	40	38	38	39

- Out of 64,268 allegations of neglect, 24,927 were determined (39 percent).
- Percentage of determinations of neglect held somewhat steady (38-40 percent).



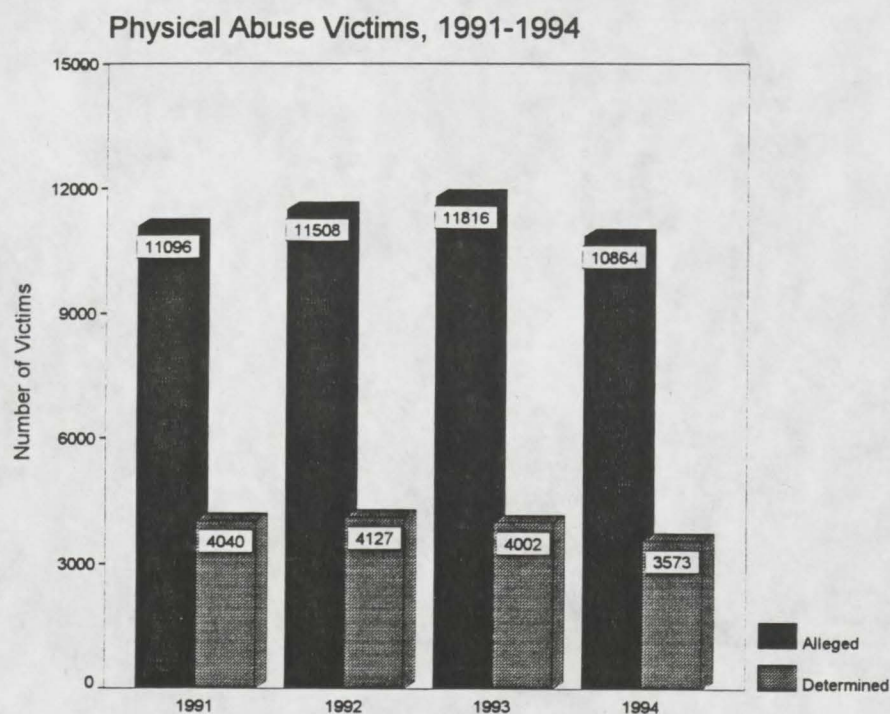


#### 4. Physical Abuse, 1991-94

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	11,096	11,508	11,816	10,864	45,284
Determined Victims	4,040	4,127	4,002	3,573	15,742
Percentage of Determinations	36	36	34	33	35

- Out of 45,284 allegations of physical abuse, 15,742 were determined (35 percent).
- Percentage of determinations for physical abuse slowly declined from 36 percent in 1991 and 1992, to 34 percent in 1993, and to 33 percent in 1994.



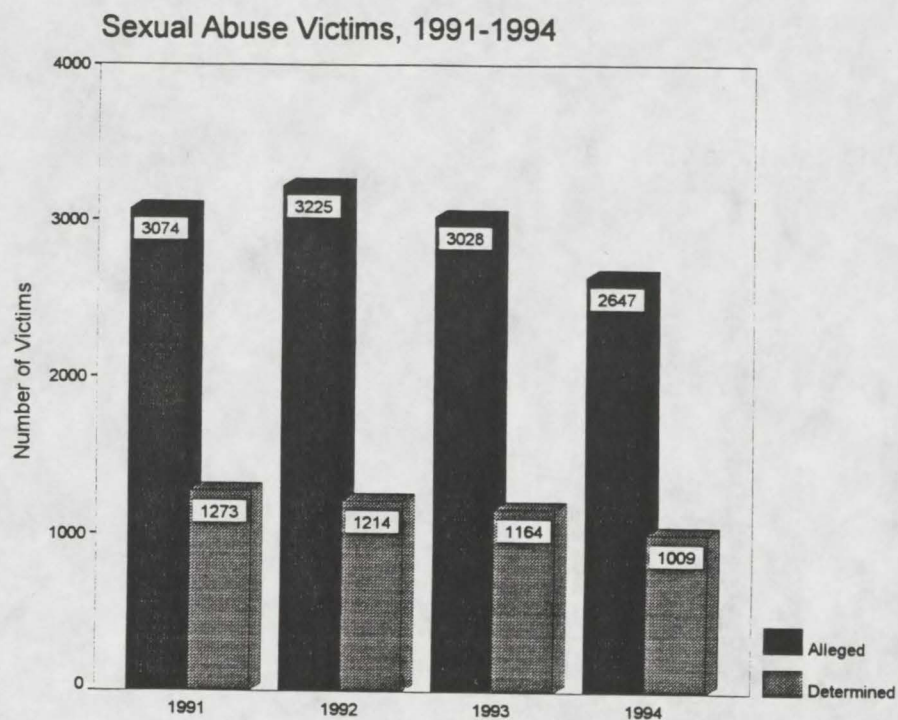


## 5. Sexual Abuse, 1991-94

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	3,074	3,225	3,028	2,647	11,974
Determined Victims	1,273	1,214	1,164	1,009	4,660
Percentage of Determinations	41	38	38	38	39

- Out of 11,974 allegations of sexual abuse, 4,660 were determined (39 percent).
- Percentage of determinations of sexual abuse held somewhat steady (38 percent), except for 1991 in which the percentage rose (41 percent).

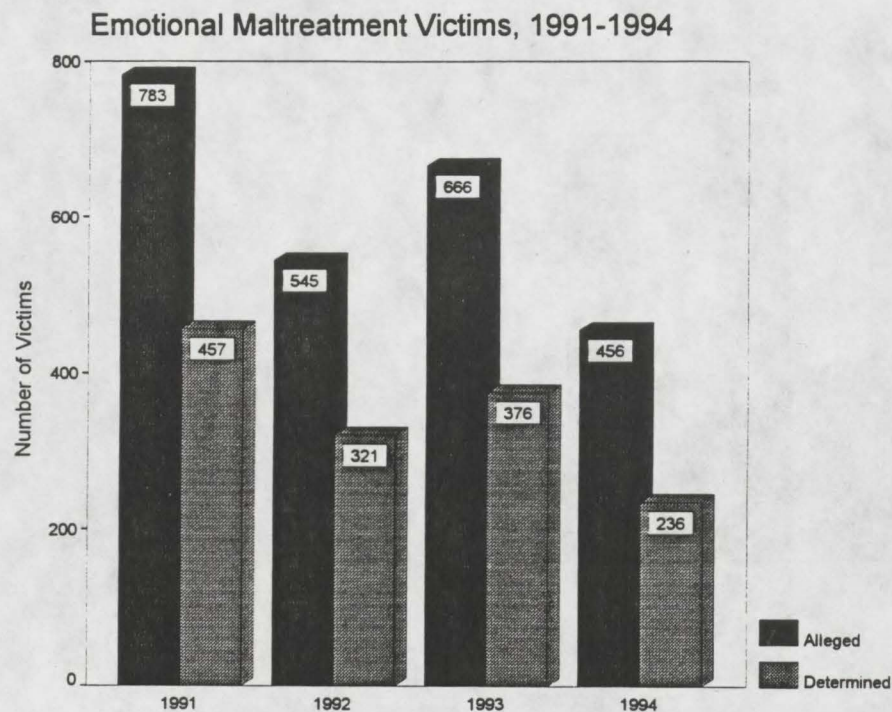


## 6. Emotional Maltreatment, 1991-94

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	783	545	666	456	2,450
Determined Victims	457	321	376	236	1,390
Percentage of Determinations	58	59	56	52	57

- Out of 2,450 allegations of emotional maltreatment, 1,390 were determined (57 percent).
- While emotional maltreatment represented approximately 3 percent of the total number of determined maltreatment victims, this type of maltreatment had the highest percentage of determinations, ranging from 58 percent in 1991 to 52 percent in 1994.





### III. AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY

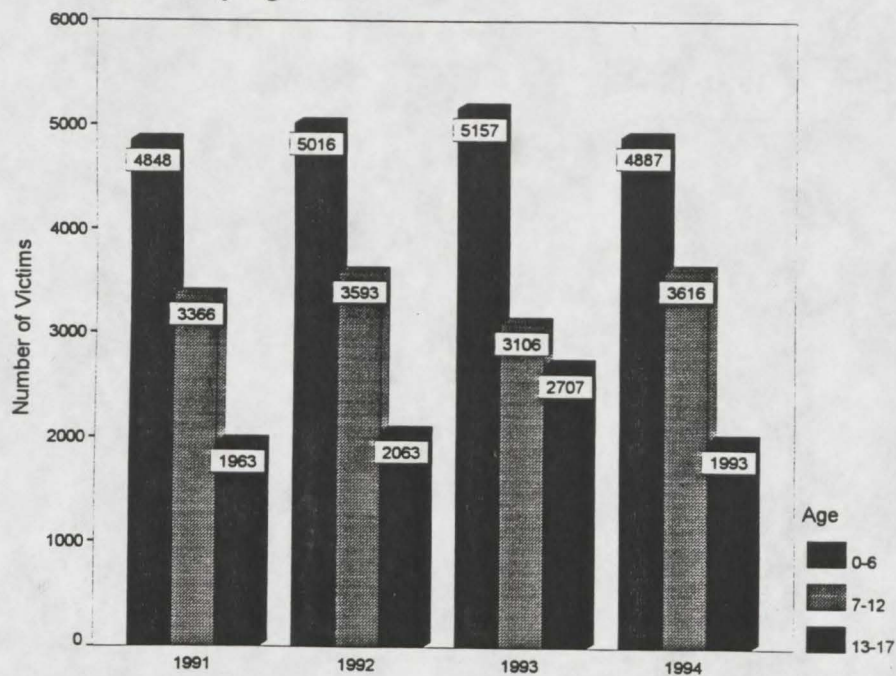
#### 1. Age, 1991-94\*

Number and Percentage of Determined Victims by Age

	<u>1991</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Age 0-6	4,848	47	5,016	47	5,157	47	4,887	47
Age 0-3	2,856	28	2,974	28	2,926	26	2,695	26
Age 4-6	1,992	19	2,042	19	2,231	20	2,192	21
Age 7-12	3,366	33	3,593	34	3,106	28	3,616	34
Age 13-17	1,963	19	2,063	19	2,707	24	1,993	19
Total	10,224		10,700		11,058		10,501	

- Almost a half (47 percent) of determined maltreatment victims in Minnesota were very young (six years of age and under). In addition, even more remarkable is the fact that infants and toddlers (three years of age and under) represent the majority of this percentage (26-28 percent).

Victims by Age, 1991-1994



\* These age groupings were organized to reflect pre-school, school-age, and secondary school children. Please note that the number of years within each group varies. Pre-school covers seven years, school-age six years, and secondary school five years.

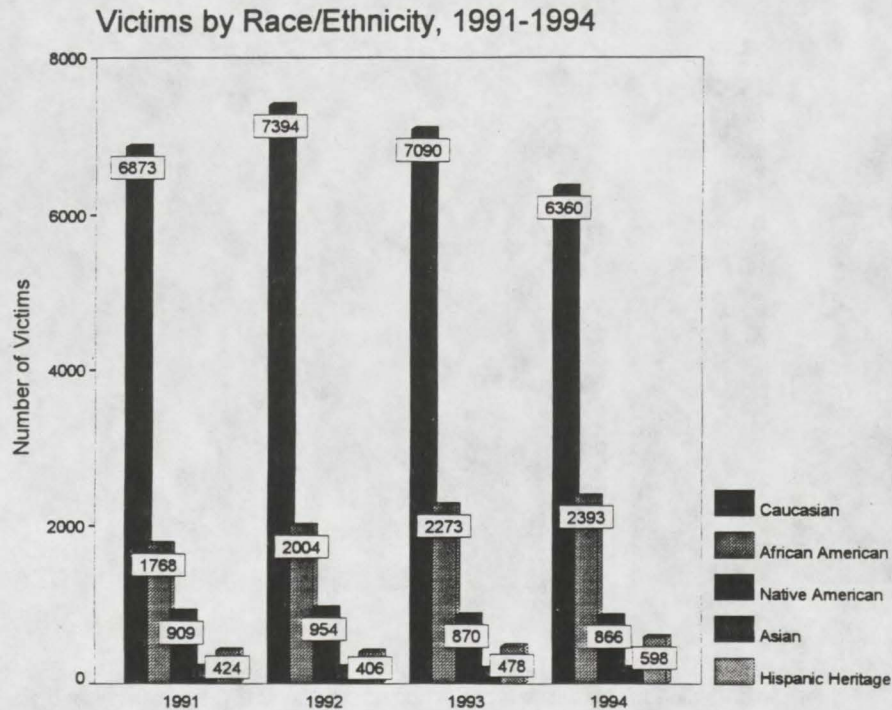
## 2. Race/Ethnicity, 1991-94

Number and Percent of Determined Maltreatment Victims by Race/Ethnicity

	<u>1991</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Caucasian	6,873	67	7,394	69	7,090	64	6,360	61
African American	1,768	17	2,004	19	2,273	21	2,393	23
Native American	909	9	954	9	870	8	866	8
Asian	217	2	210	2	195	2	206	2
Hispanic Heritage*	424	4	406	4	478	4	598	6
Total	10,224		10,700		11,058		10,500	

\* Children of Hispanic heritage classify themselves in one of the following categories: "Mexican," "Puerto Rican," or Cuban," as well as "other Spanish/Hispanic" origin.

- Percentage of determined Caucasian victims decreased from 67 percent in 1991 to 61 percent in 1994. However, percentage of determined African American victims increased from 17 percent in 1991 to 23 percent in 1994.
- Percentage of determined Native American, Asian, and Hispanic heritage victims held somewhat steady over four years.



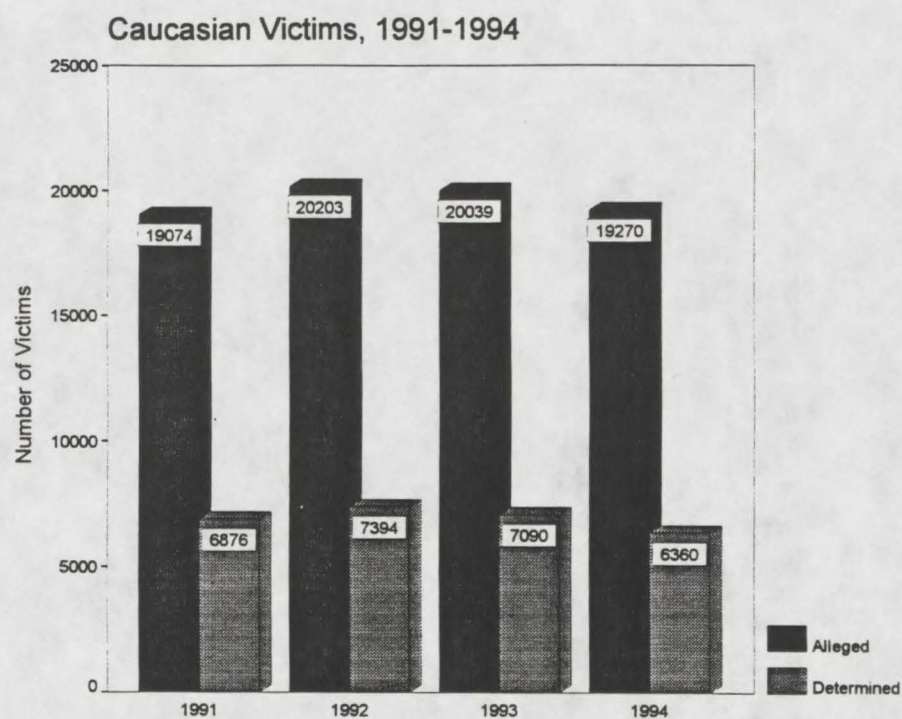


### 3. Caucasian, 1991-94

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	19,074	20,203	20,039	19,270	79,216
Determined Victims	6,876	7,394	7,090	6,360	27,720
Percentage of Determinations	36	37	35	33	35

- Out of 79,216 alleged Caucasian victims, 27,720 were determined (35 percent):
- Caucasian children represent the largest percentage of determined victims (approximately 65 percent), but have the lowest determination rate (33-37 percent).

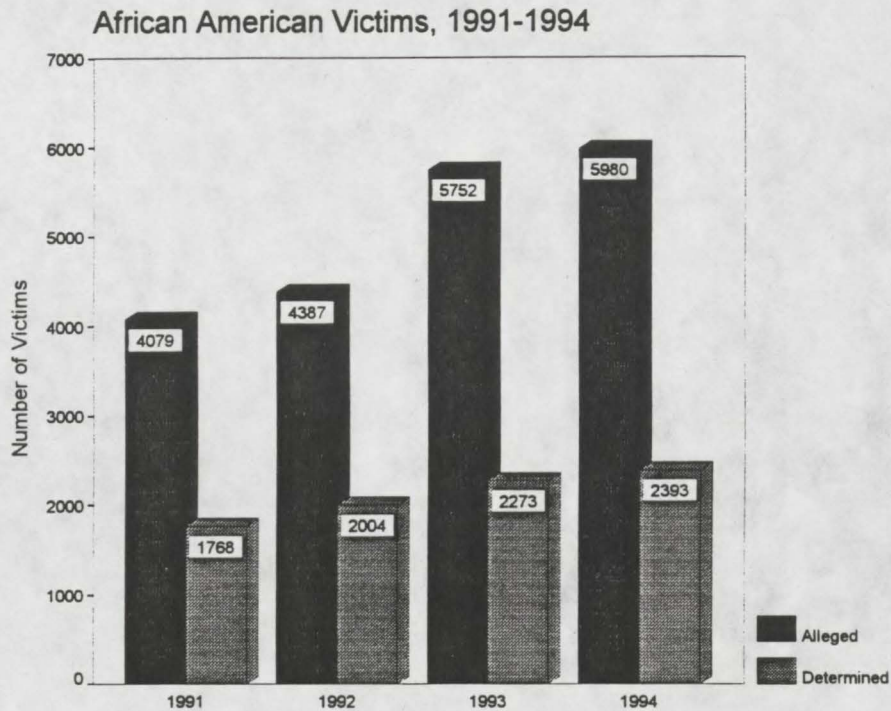


#### 4. African American, 1991-94

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	4,079	4,387	5,752	5,980	20,198
Determined Victims	1,768	2,004	2,273	2,393	8,438
Percentage of Determinations	43	46	40	40	42

- Out of 20,198 alleged African American victims, 8,438 were determined (42 percent).
- African American victims represent less than 20 percent of the determined victims in Minnesota, but had the second highest determination rate (40-46 percent).



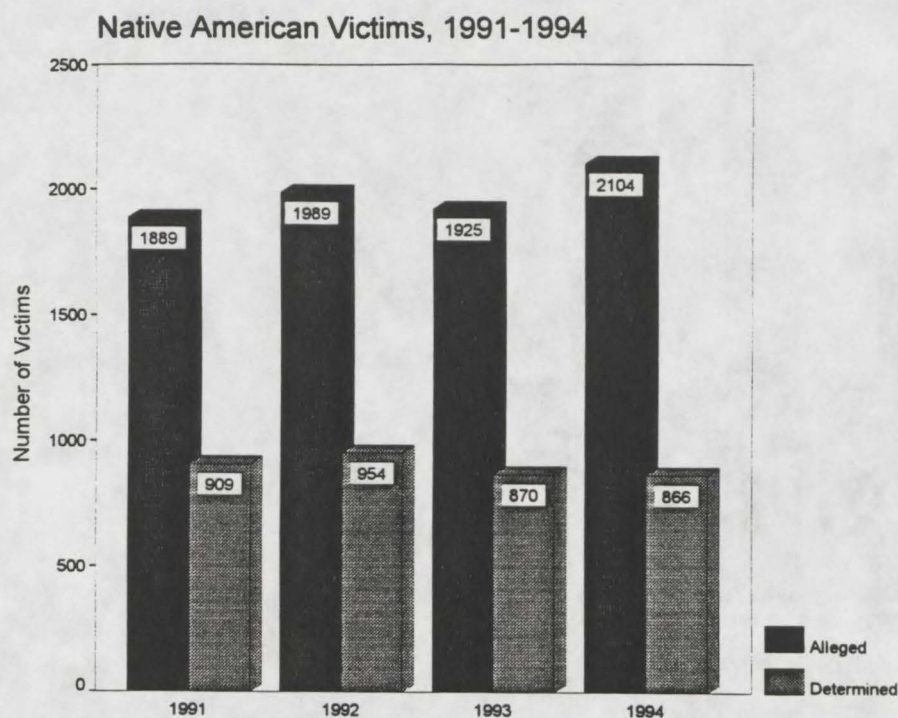


## 5. Native American, 1991-94

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	1,889	1,989	1,925	2,104	7,907
Determined Victims	909	954	870	866	3,599
Percentage of Determinations	48	48	45	41	46

- Out of 7,907 alleged Native American victims, 3,599 were determined (46 percent).
- While Native American victims represent less than 9 percent of determined victims in Minnesota, they had the highest determination rate (41-48 percent). However, the percentage of determinations decreased from 48 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 1994.



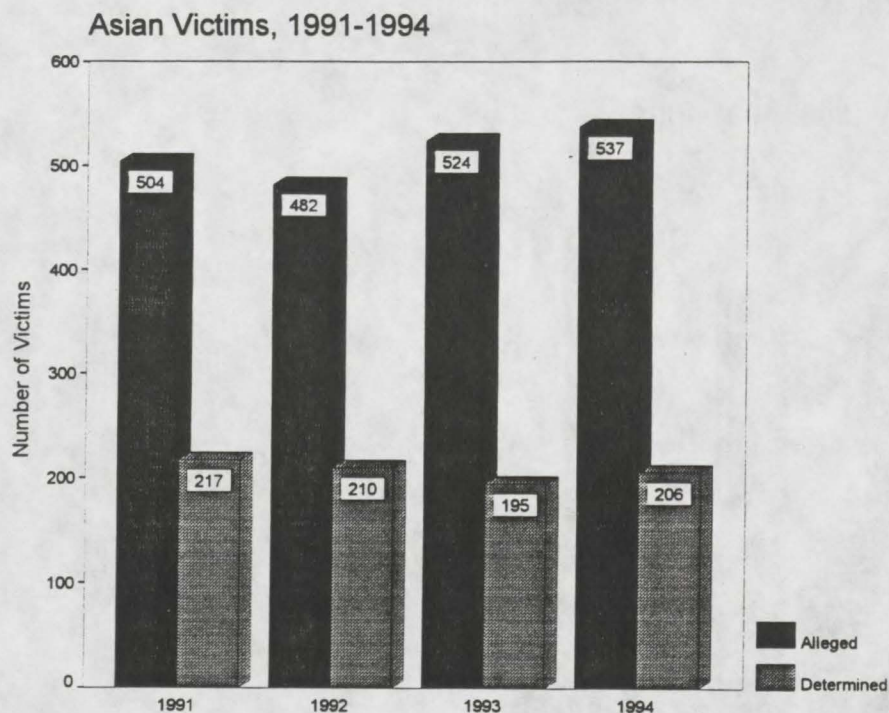


## 6. Asian, 1991-94

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	504	482	524	537	2,047
Determined Victims	217	210	195	206	828
Percentage of Determinations	43	44	37	38	40

- Out of 2,047 alleged Asian victims, 828 were determined (40 percent).
- Percentage of determinations for Asian victims decreased from 43 percent in 1991 to 38 percent in 1994.

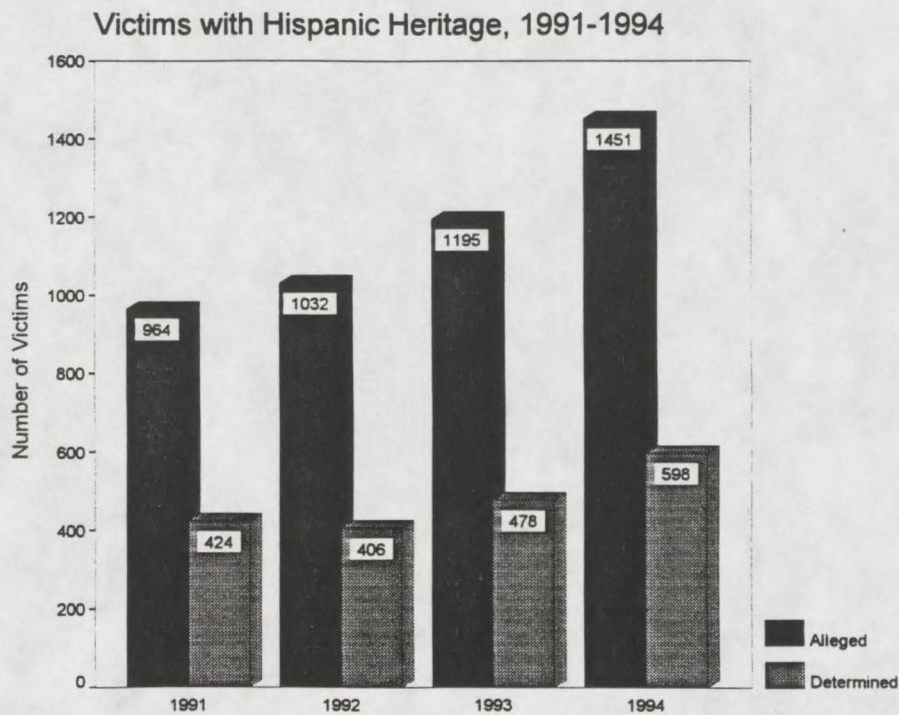


## 7. Hispanic Heritage, 1991-94

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	964	1,032	1,195	1,451	4,642
Determined Victims	424	406	478	598	1,906
Percentage of Determinations	44	39	40	41	41

- Out of 4,642 alleged victims of Hispanic heritage, 1,906 were determined (41 percent).
- Percentage of determinations for victims of Hispanic heritage (39-44 percent) were slightly higher than the average percentage of determinations in Minnesota (37-39 percent). However, their percentage of determinations decreased from 44 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 1994.







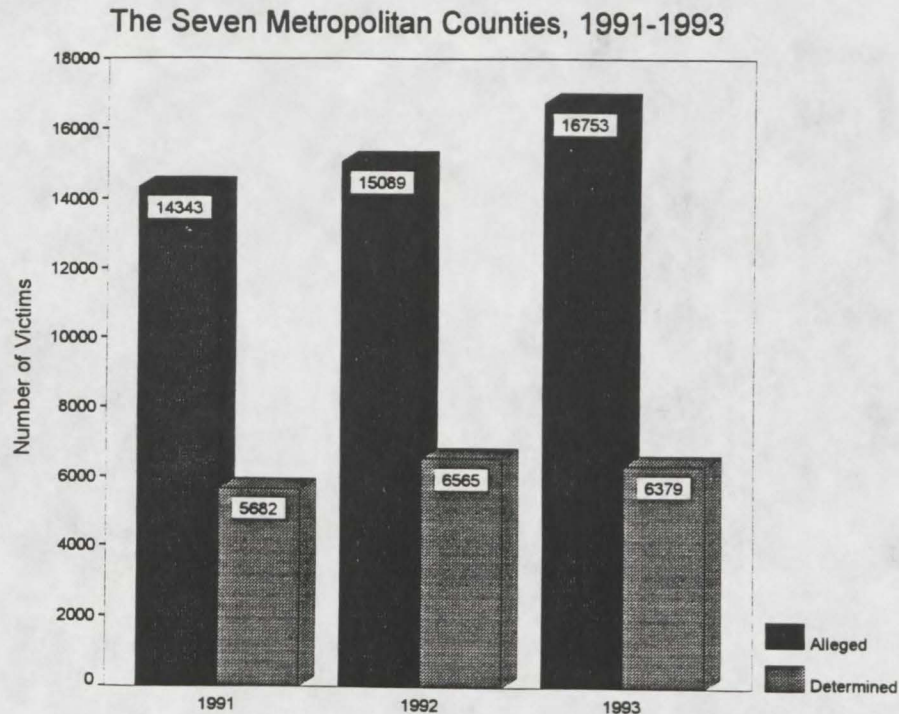
## IV. THE SEVEN METROPOLITAN COUNTIES\*

### 1. The Seven Metropolitan Counties, 1991-93

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	14,343	15,089	16,753	46,185
Determined Victims	5,682	6,565	6,379	18,626
Percentage of Determinations	40	44	38	40

- The seven metropolitan counties (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington) represented 55 percent of the State's total allegations of maltreatment and 58 percent of the State's total number of determinations of maltreatment over the three years 1991 through 1993.
- The percentage of determinations in the seven metropolitan counties (40 percent in 1991, 44 percent in 1992, and 38 percent in 1993) was higher than the percentage of determinations for the State as a whole (38 percent in 1991, 39 percent in 1992, and 37 percent in 1993).



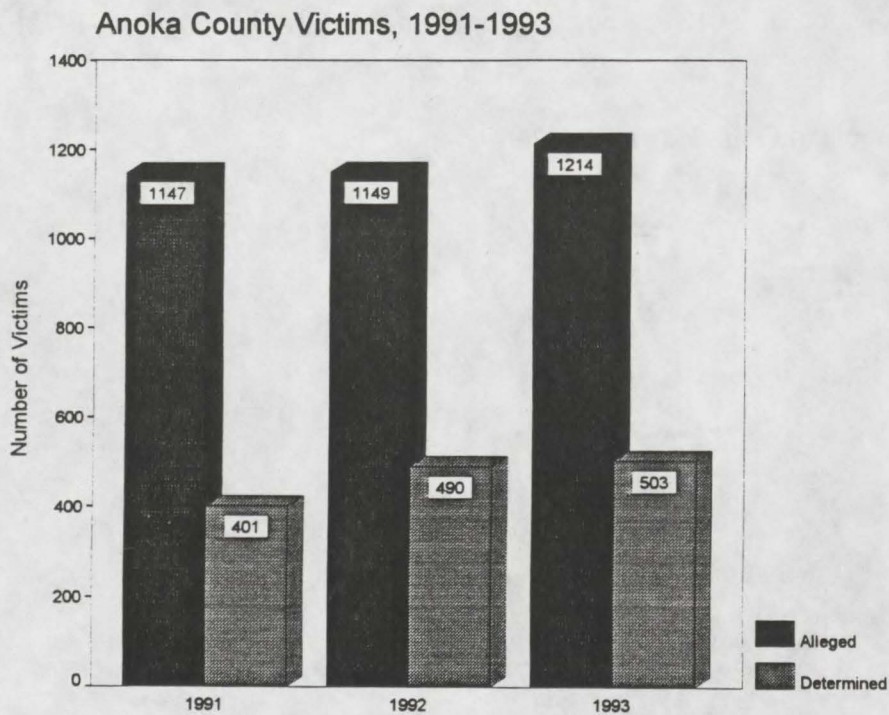
\* 1993 was the last year for which data for the seven metropolitan counties were available.

## 2. Anoka County, 1991-93

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	1,147	1,149	1,214	3,510
Determined Victims	401	490	503	1,394
Percentage of Determinations	35	43	41	40

- Out of 3,510 allegations of maltreatment in Anoka County, 1,394 were determined (40 percent). The percentage of determinations (40 percent) was slightly higher than the average percentage of determinations of maltreatment in Minnesota (38 percent).
- Percentage of determinations in Anoka County increased from 35 percent in 1991 to 41 percent in 1993.



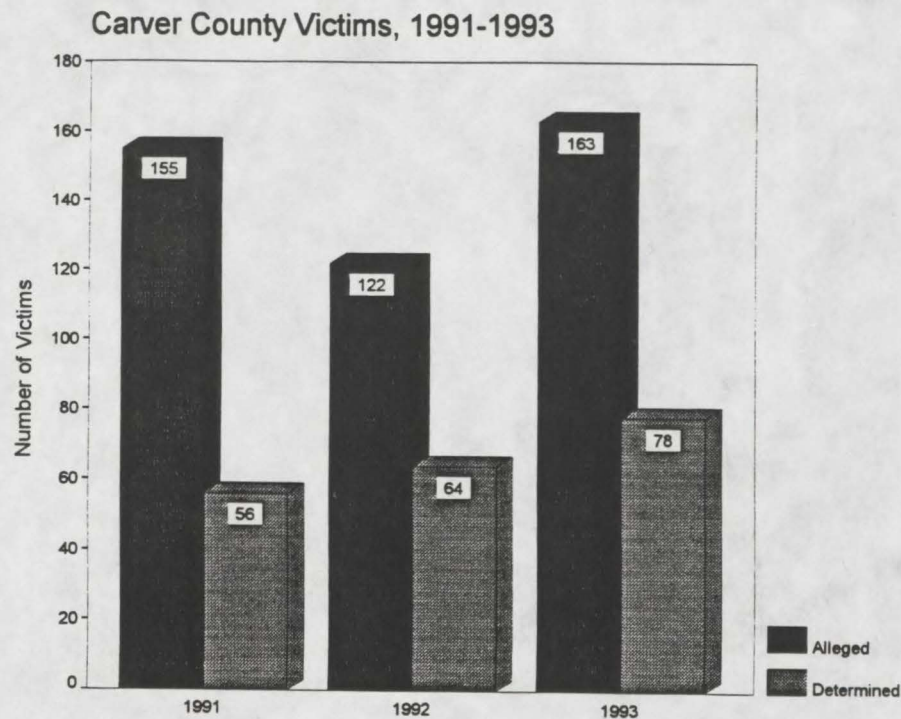


### 3. Carver County, 1991-93

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	155	122	163	440
Determined Victims	56	64	78	198
Percentage of Determinations	36	52	48	45

- Out of 440 allegations of maltreatment in Carver County, 198 were determined (45 percent). The percentage of determinations (45 percent) was substantially higher than the average percentage of determinations in Minnesota (38 percent).
- Percentage of determinations in Carver County continuously increased from 36 percent in 1991 to 48 percent in 1993.

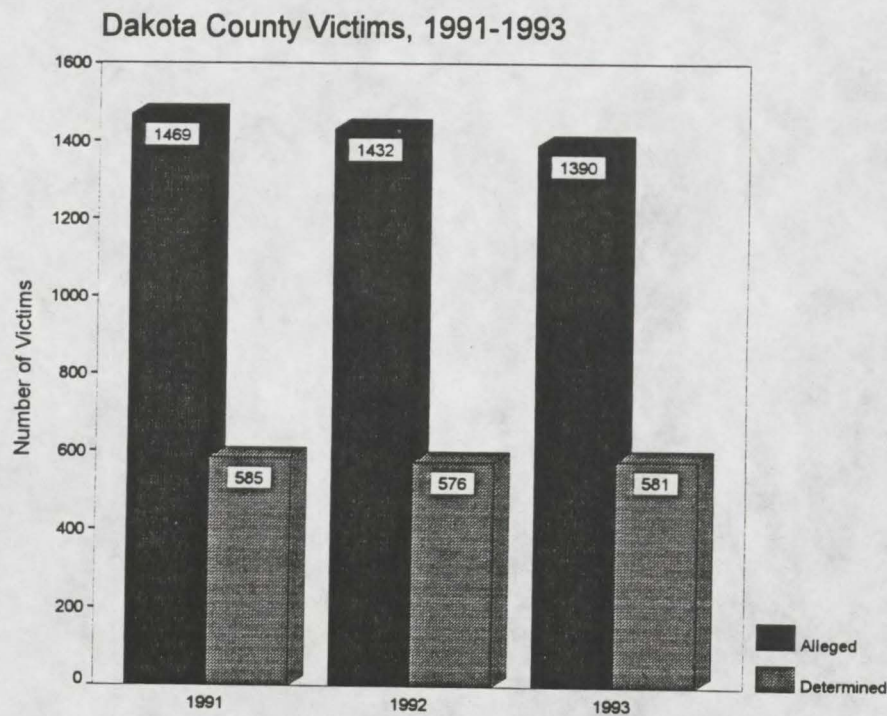


#### 4. Dakota County, 1991-93

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	1,469	1,432	1,390	4,291
Determined Victims	585	576	581	1,742
Percentage of Determinations	40	40	42	41

- Out of 4,291 allegations of maltreatment in Dakota County, 1,742 were determined (41 percent). The percentage of determinations (41 percent) was slightly higher than the average percentage of determinations of maltreatment in Minnesota (38 percent).
- Percentage of determinations in Dakota County held somewhat steady (40-42 percent) over three years.





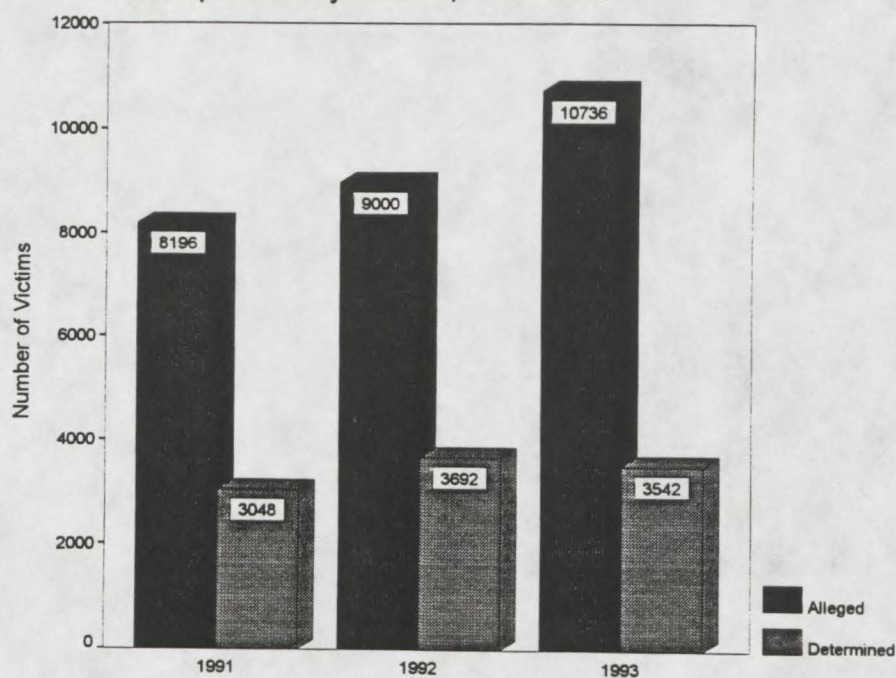
## 5. Hennepin County, 1991-93

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	8,196	9,000	10,736	27,932
Determined Victims	3,048	3,692	3,542	10,282
Percentage of Determinations	37	41	33	37

- The number of alleged and determined maltreatment victims in Hennepin County represented almost a third of the total number of alleged and determined victims in Minnesota.
- Out of 27,932 allegations of maltreatment in Hennepin County, 10,282 were determined (37 percent). The percentage of determinations in Hennepin County fluctuated in uneven ways: 37 percent in 1991; 41 percent in 1992; 33 percent in 1993.
- The percentage of determinations in Hennepin County in 1993 (33 percent) was the lowest percentage of determinations among the seven metropolitan counties.

Hennepin County Victims, 1991-1993



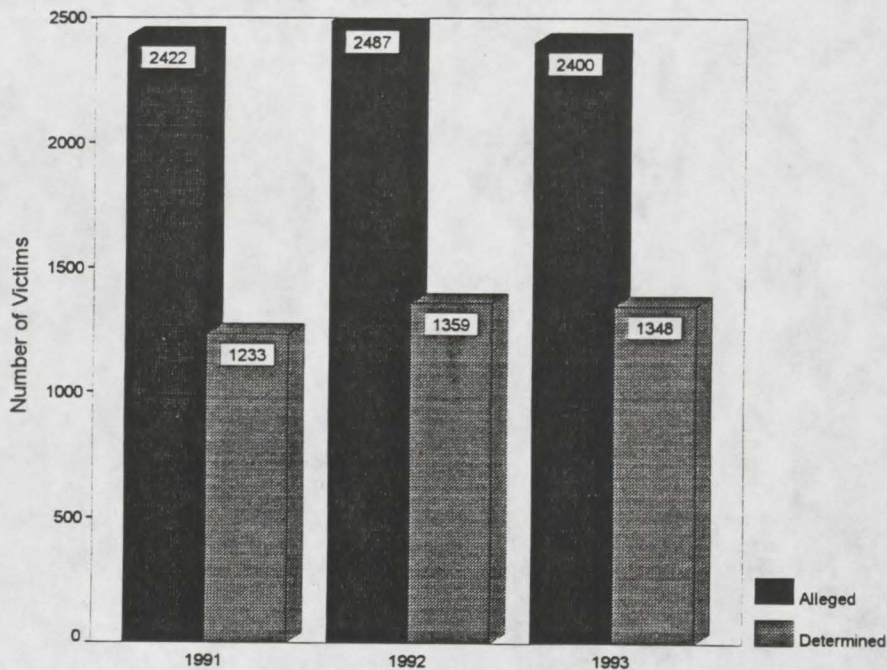
## 6. Ramsey County, 1991-93

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	2,422	2,487	2,400	7,309
Determined Victims	1,233	1,359	1,348	3,940
Percentage of Determinations	51	55	56	54

- Out of 7,309 allegations of maltreatment in Ramsey County, 3,940 were determined (54 percent). The percentage of determinations (54 percent) was substantially higher than the average determination rate in Minnesota (38 percent).
- The percentage of determinations in Ramsey County increased from 51 percent in 1991, to 55 percent in 1992, and to 56 percent in 1993.
- The percentage of determinations in Ramsey County in 1993 (56 percent) was the highest percentage of determinations among the seven metropolitan counties.

Ramsey County Victims, 1991-1993





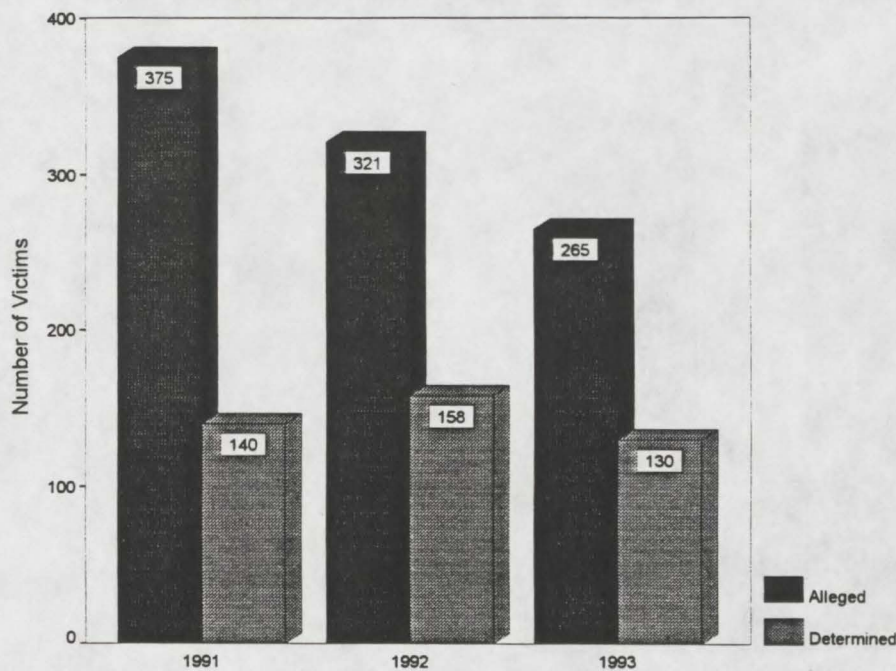
## 7. Scott County, 1991-93

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	375	321	265	961
Determined Victims	140	158	130	428
Percentage of Determinations	37	49	49	45

- Out of 961 allegations of maltreatment in Scott County, 428 were determined (45 percent). The percentage of determinations (45 percent) was somewhat higher than the average determination rate in Minnesota (38 percent).
- Percentage of determinations in Scott County substantially increased from 37 percent in 1991 to 49 percent in 1993.

Scott County Victims, 1991-1993





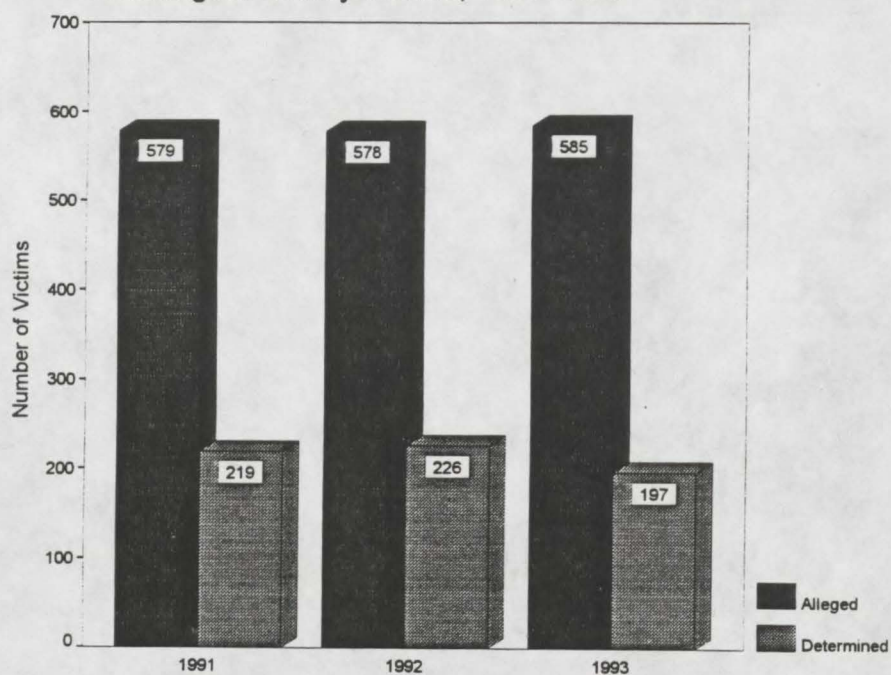
## 8. Washington County, 1991-93

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alleged Victims	579	578	585	1,742
Determined Victims	219	226	197	642
Percentage of Determinations	38	39	34	37

- Out of 1,742 allegations of maltreatment in Washington County, 642 were determined (37 percent). The percentage of determinations (37 percent) was similar to the average determination rate in Minnesota (38 percent).
- Percentage of determinations in Washington County held somewhat steady (34-39 percent) over three years.

Washington County Victims, 1991-1993



## V. A COMPARISON OF MINNESOTA DATA AND U.S. DATA\*

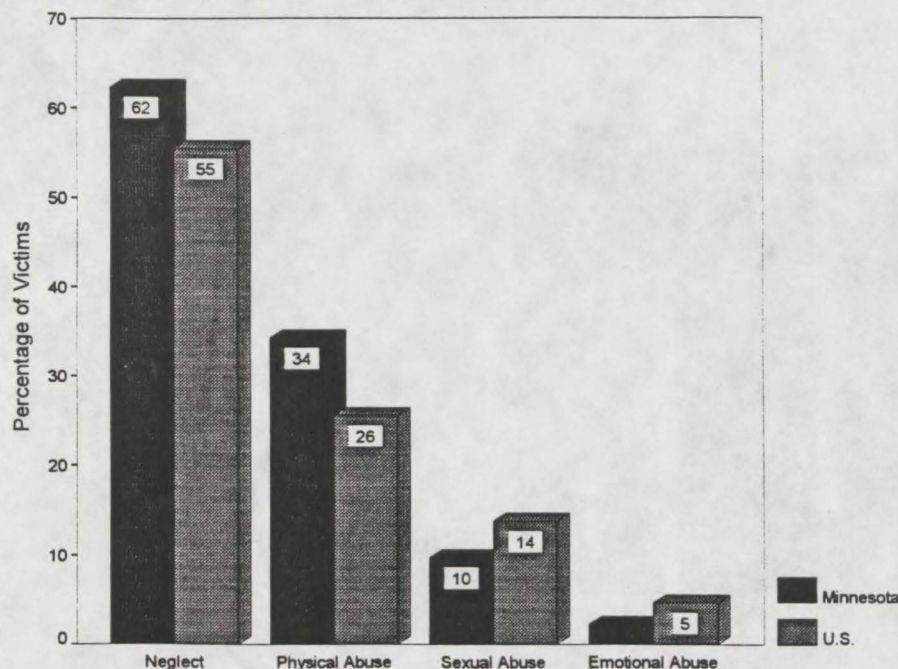
### 1. Type of Maltreatment, 1994

Number and Percentage of Determined Victims by Type of Maltreatment, 1994

	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>United States</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Neglect	6,504	62.3	560,442	55.4
Physical Abuse	3,573	34.2	257,965	25.5
Sexual Abuse	1,009	9.7	139,605	13.8
Emotional Maltreatment	236	2.3	47,546	4.7
Total	10,438		1,011,628	

- In 1994, the percentage of determined neglect victims in Minnesota (62.3 percent) was higher than percentage of determined neglect victims in the U.S. (55.4 percent).
- The percentage of determined physical abuse victims in Minnesota (34.2 percent) was also higher than the percentage of determined physical abuse victims in the U.S. (25.5 percent).
- However, percentage of determined sexual abuse and emotional maltreatment victims in Minnesota was a little lower than percentage of those in the U.S.

Victims by Type of Maltreatment, 1994



\* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. (1996). *Child Maltreatment 1994: Reports from the States to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

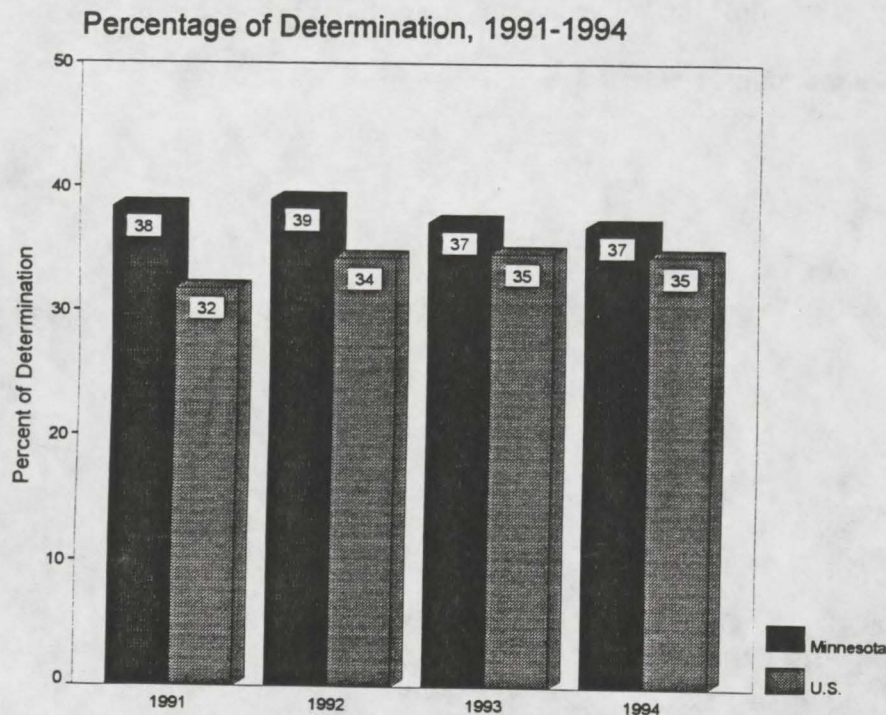


## 2. Alleged and Determined Maltreatment, 1991-94

Number of Alleged and Determined Victims and Percentage of Determinations

	Minnesota			United States		
	<u>Alleged</u>	<u>Determined</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Alleged</u>	<u>Determined</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1991	26,643	10,224	38.4	2,695,658	857,968	31.8
1992	27,462	10,700	39.0	2,922,513	1,002,288	34.3
1993	29,722	11,058	37.2	2,936,555	1,018,692	34.7
1994	28,286	10,438	36.9	2,935,470	1,011,628	34.5

- Percentage of determinations in Minnesota (36-39 percent) was higher than percentage of determinations in the U.S. (31-34 percent).
- However, the differences in percentage of determinations between Minnesota and the U.S. decreased over four years, from 6.6 percent in 1991 to 2.4 percent in 1994.



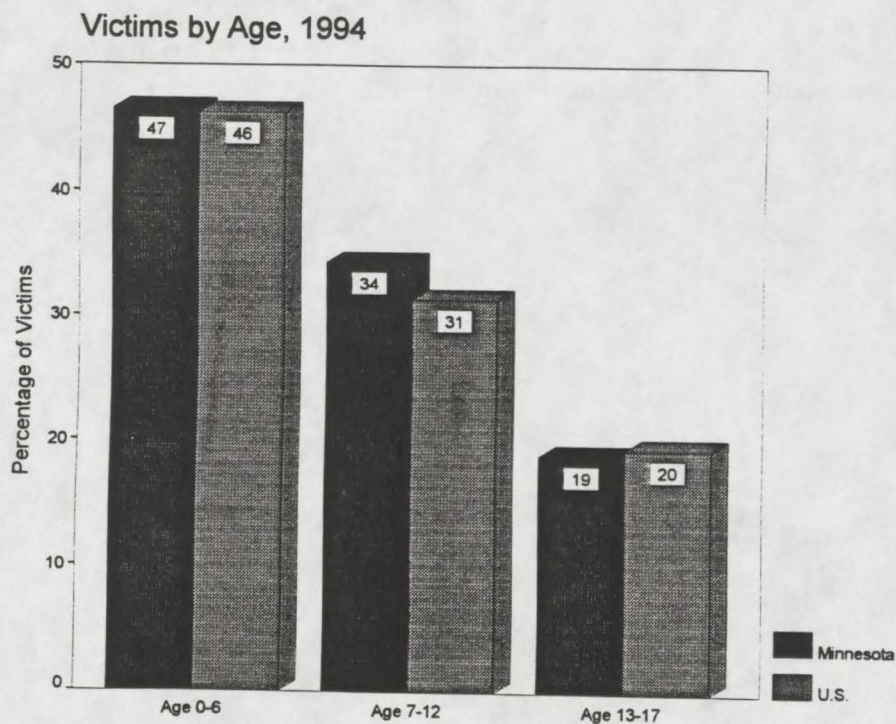


### 3. Age, 1994

Number and Percentage of Determined Victims by Age

	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>United States</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Age 0-6*	4,887	46.5	416,867	46.2
Age 0-3	2,695	25.7	240,639	26.7
Age 4-7	2,192	20.9	176,228	19.5
Age 7-12	3,616	34.4	282,773	31.4
Age 13-17	1,993	19.0	176,071	19.5
Total	10,501		901,487	

- In 1994, percentage of determined victims by age in Minnesota was somewhat similar to percentage of those in the U.S. Both in Minnesota and the U.S., almost half of determined victims were very young (six years of age and under), and infant and toddlers (three years of age and under) represented the majority of this percentage.



#### 4. Race/Ethnicity, 1994

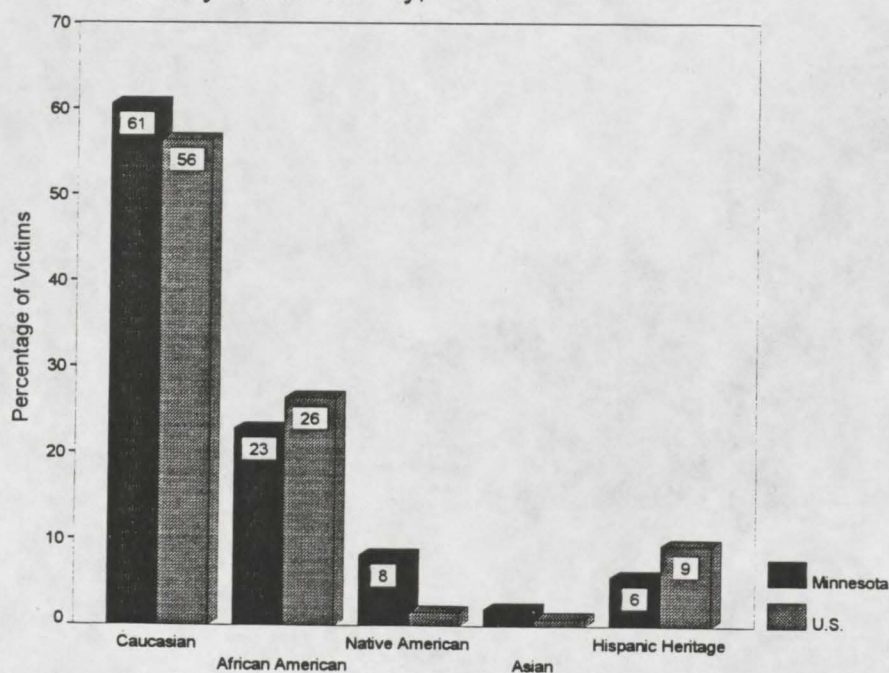
Number and Percentage of Determined Victims by Race/Ethnicity

	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>United States</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Caucasian	6,360	60.6	523,820	56.4
African American	2,393	22.8	245,472	26.4
Native American	866	8.2	15,317	1.6
Asian	206	2.0	8,142	0.9
Hispanic heritage*	598	5.7	87,161	9.4
Total	10,500		928,817	

\* Children of Hispanic heritage classify themselves in one of the following categories: "Mexican," "Puerto Rican," or Cuban," as well as "other Spanish/Hispanic" origin.

- In 1994, the percentage of determined Caucasian victims in Minnesota (60.6 percent) was higher than the percentage of those in the U.S. (56.4 percent). However, the percentage of determined African American victims in Minnesota (22.8 percent) was lower than the percentage of those in the U.S. (26.4 percent).
- The percentage of determined Native American and Asian victims in Minnesota was higher than the percentage of those in the U.S.
- However, the percentage of determined victims of Hispanic heritage in Minnesota (5.7 percent) was lower than the percentage of those in the U.S. (9.4 percent).

Victims by Race/Ethnicity, 1994



## VI. CONCLUSION

The most striking finding in this report of child maltreatment over a four-year period, 1991-1994, is the young age of children who are victims of child abuse and neglect. The fact that almost half of determined maltreatment cases consist of young children (six years of age and under) is noteworthy. Moreover, very young children, infants and toddlers three years of age and under, are the largest group of this vulnerable population. This should send a signal of alarm throughout the community. Reports of maltreatment and determination of abuse and neglect of this group of very young, defenseless children require sustained and integrated attention from the web of programs that make up the child welfare system.





## SELECTED NATIONAL REFERENCES

- Albert, Vicky N. and Barth, Richard P. (1996). Predicting Growth in Child Abuse and Neglect Reports in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Counties. *Social Service Review*, 70, (1), 58-82.
- The Child Welfare League of America. (1995). *Children '95 State Survey*. Washington, D.C.
- Craft, John L. and Staudt, Marlys M. (1991). Reporting and Founding of Child Neglect in Urban and Rural Communities. *Child Welfare*, LXX, (3), 359-370.
- Curtis, Patrick A., Boyd, Jennifer D., Liepold, Mary, and Petit, Michael. (1995). *Child Abuse and Neglect: A Look at the States. The CWLA Stat Book*. Washington, D.C.: Child Welfare League of America, Inc.
- Gaudin, James, M., Jr. (1993). *Child Neglect: A Guide for Intervention. The User Manual Series*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- Margolin, L. (1990). Fatal Child Neglect. *Child Welfare*, 69, (4), 309-319.
- McCurdy, Karen and Daro, Deborah. (1994). Child Maltreatment: A National Survey of Reports and Fatalities. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, (1), 75-94.
- National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice (Spring 1996). Culture and Family Centered Practice, *The Prevention Report*, The University of Iowa School of Social Work, Iowa City, Iowa.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. (1995). *Child Maltreatment 1993: Reports From the States to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. (1996). *Executive Summary of the Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-3)*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. (1996). *Child Abuse and Neglect Case-Level Data 1993: Working Paper 1*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.